

Summary and disposition of Nisqually-Mashel State Park Area Issues

Revised June 28, 2006

Natural Resource Issues			
Public Comment	Issue	Natural/Cultural Resource Protection Emphasis	Recreational Use and Development Emphasis
Grow an old growth forest—start now	Forest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Natural Areas and Resource Recreation Areas, develop and institute forest management prescriptions for accelerated old-growth in partnership with UW Pack Forest. In Recreation Areas, develop and institute an alternate forest management prescription allowing for increased habitat diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Natural Areas and Resource Recreation Areas, develop and institute forest management prescriptions for accelerated old-growth in partnership with UW Pack Forest. In Recreation Areas, develop and institute an alternate forest management prescription allowing for expanded recreational development.
Large areas of older growth area, “people use free,” i.e. no people			
How many roads and buildings? Which will involve land clearing. Would like to see very little land clearing.			
As a new member of the Washington Native Plant Society, I would like to see native plants exclusively used for all landscaping environmental enhancement, etc.	Protection of native plant & animal communities	<p>Emphasize management of the park for natural resources conservation function. Specific measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop vegetation management plan to control/eliminate non-native invasive plant species and maximize function of natural systems. Plant only native species in all areas of the park. Develop habitat and bird population management plan as part of forest management prescriptions. Avoid development in elk migratory corridors, and retain or restore habitat corridors through the park. Classify wetlands and wetland buffers as Natural Areas to preclude equestrian and bicycle trails in these areas. Classify the majority of the park as a Resource Recreation Area to allow for low and medium intensity recreational use. 	<p>Emphasize management of the park for recreational use. Specific measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classify large sections of the park as Recreation Areas to allow for a ~300 site campground and other development. Classify the rest of the park a Resource Recreation Area to allow for equestrian and bike trails. Develop vegetation management plan to control/eliminate non-native invasive plant species. Develop habitat and bird population management plan as part of forest management prescriptions. Avoid development in elk migratory corridors to prevent damage to facilities from elk. Allow for non-native plantings in Recreation Areas if those plants allow for expanded recreational opportunities.
Find out what the 500-year stewardship model will look like.			
I would like to have large areas as natural as possible and restoration done elsewhere, i.e. the eradication of invasive plant species.			
Develop habitat and bird population management plan.			
Develop a native plant vegetative plan and a bio-diversity study			
Concern that migratory/movement corridor for elk, deer remains open. Leave habitat areas			

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Protect riparian area.	Riparian area management—Ohop Creek, Mashel River, Nisqually River	<p><u>Ohop Creek and Mashel River</u>: Emphasize management of stream and riparian areas for natural function and fish habitat. Specific measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classify the majority of riparian areas as Natural Areas. ▪ Allow streams to meander, flood, and form new routes into the Nisqually unimpaired. ▪ Provide interpretive trail/boardwalk through Ohop Creek riparian areas. <p><u>Nisqually River</u>: Emphasize management of stream and riparian areas for natural function and low impact recreational use. Specific measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classify the majority of riparian areas associated with the river as Natural Areas. ▪ Allow river to meander and flood unimpaired. ▪ Create walk-in access for boat launch and fishing. Minimize other development near river corridor. 	<p><u>Ohop Creek and Mashel River</u>: Emphasize management of stream and riparian areas for recreational use and natural function. Specific measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classify the majority of riparian areas as Resource Recreation Areas. ▪ Allow streams to meander, flood, and form new routes into the Nisqually unimpaired. ▪ Provide interpretive trail/boardwalk through Ohop Creek riparian areas and multi-use trails along the Mashel River. <p><u>Nisqually River</u>: Emphasize management of stream and riparian areas for natural function and recreational use. Specific measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classify the majority of riparian areas associated with the river as Resource Recreation Areas. ▪ Create access for boat launch and fishing. Allow for parking, restrooms, and picnic facilities nearby.

Cultural Resource Issues			
Public Comment	Issue	Natural/Cultural Resource Protection Emphasis	Recreational Use and Development Emphasis
Cemetery Indian Henry, Shaker Church, massacre site, historic tourist campground, Nisqually Tribal camp site (Leschi)	Protection of cultural sites—Indian cemetery, massacre site, tribal camp site, campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with agency Historic Preservation Section staff and agency Archaeologist to identify and ascertain the significance of historic properties and archaeological sites. Work with agency staff and interested Tribes to develop a cultural resource management plan for the park. 	
How will Indian Henry's gravesite be protected?			
Native American signage motif by river—salmon emphasis	Education and interpretation of cultural sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with agency staff, volunteers, and interested Tribes to develop a park interpretive master plan. Design and construct a modest interpretive network for the park, including interpretive kiosks, signs, and non-facilities oriented programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with agency staff, volunteers, and interested Tribes to develop a park interpretive master plan. Design and construct an extensive, high-quality interpretive/education center in the park. Using the above interpretive center as a hub, design and construct an extensive interpretive network throughout the park. Actively solicit partnerships with the regional school districts to provide cultural education opportunities.
Protect and preserve only sensitive sites, provide educational and interpretive information, interactive displays.			
Interpret Indian Henry's role in guiding travelers from sound to mountain and helping pioneers. Protect the cemetery.			
Will there be thorough interpretation of the 1855-56 Indian Wars and the Mashel Massacre, and how will the archaeological and cultural values be developed?			
Include history of Indian and settlers info.			
Henry Smith Donation Land Claim into living history.			
History signs for information and educational purposes. School trips!			

Long-Term Boundary Issues			
Public Comment	Issue	Natural/Cultural Resource Protection Emphasis	Recreational Use and Development Emphasis
Purchase Manke property and other properties within current boundary	Property acquisition	<p>Seek to acquire properties that protect natural/cultural resources and increase the amount of undeveloped open space. Properties may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manke Lumber Company properties between two "legs" of existing State Parks ownership. Triangular parcels between Ohop Creek and the park's western "stairsteps." Ohop Dairy Farm. On a willing-seller basis, the existing home sites at the south end of Medical Springs Road. The part of the greenbelt on the south shore of the Nisqually River that is owned by Weyerhaeuser. 	<p>Seek to acquire properties that provide opportunities for recreational facilities development and that enhance the recreational capacity of the park. Properties may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manke Lumber Company properties between two "legs" of existing State Parks ownership. Triangular parcels between Ohop Creek and the park's western "stairsteps." Explore management agreement with Nisqually Land Trust for trails within their property at the northeast corner of the park and within their proposed acquisition along the Nisqually River.
Think you should get as much available land adjacent to current boundaries as possible, especially prairie area in the fork—Manke timberland.			
Incorporate Ohop Dairy Farm. Admin. Use reach from above.			
Acquire south side of Nisqually River for greenbelt.			
Trail along river for fishermen not to cross our property to get to the river			
Acquire remaining private property either through direct purchase or working with the Nisqually Tribe and Nisqually Land Trust.			
Work with Pack Forest for access across Mashel.	Connections to the region	<p>Seek partnerships with park neighbors to enhance recreational and educational opportunities. Partnerships may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail connection to Town of Eatonville Trail connection and forest management partnership with UW Pack Forest Trail connection along Nisqually River from Mount Rainier National Park to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Shared educational vision with other partners in the Nisqually River watershed. Cooperative agreement with Mount Rainier National Park and other partners in the watershed to provide local transportation and tourism. 	
Connect with properties nearby: Land Trust, Wildlife, Pioneer Farm, Dept. of Nat. Res., Town of Eatonville, Smallwood Park.			
Link park trails with regional trails, Interurban and cross country ski trails (Ashford Ridge). Call Evergreen Trails, Pierce Conservative District.			
Local partnerships			
Build a management scheme that shares how State Parks fits in watershed.			
Have a map of regional recreation opportunities in region.			
Local enterprise: shuttle from Eatonville to Nisqually Delta.			
Work cooperatively with Eatonville Chamber for signage at SR-7 and Eatonville Hwy.			
Consider possible trail connections to Pierce County's 140 acre Rimrock Park			

Management Issues			
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Our main concern is keeping traffic away from residential area down Medical Springs. It was intentional that a buffer could be set up to serve this purpose.	Traffic management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare transportation impact analysis, analyzing impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intersection of Medical Springs Road and Highway 7 Intersection of Highway 7 and Eatonville Highway Impacts on local residential areas Traffic and safety issues within the park Develop transportation plan based on the above analysis 	
Impact of increased traffic on private roads. Good signage.			
As a resident along Ohop Valley Rd., I would like maps showing access to the park, route, traffic, south bound on 161 (Meridian) to connect to Highway 7 or more appropriate (larger) roads north of the Ohop valley.			
Hwy 7 – what can you do to prevent juggled up traffic?			
Solid policing to minimize nefarious activities.	Law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate Park Ranger staffing on site with park development to minimize risk of crime and vandalism of new park facilities. Limit park entrances to allow for easier supervision. Lock gates to day-use areas of the park at dusk. 	
Close gates at night.			
Transients – spending the night(s) at gates “camping out.” Garbage – this will hopefully be resolved some as greater presence of park.			
Too much vandalism and garbage happening now on site.			
Reinforce boundary of State Parks to discourage illegal activities. Resources are at risk.	Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore need for lahar and water level alarms. Consider fire management in forest management prescriptions Include river safety information on informational kiosks near river access points 	
Also, install lahar alarms if Rainier collapses into Nisqually River.			
Water level alarm if dam dumps water into river.			
Keep “solid” facilities above (elev.) of “100 year” flood levels.			
Warn public of inherent danger of river travel.	Park fees	Park user fees are set by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and cannot be modified on a park-by-park basis.	
Fire protection? Forest fires spread to private property. Will they be protected?			
Charge fee for groups to use for events.			
No fees please			
No fees or (offer) volunteer time to trade			

Management Issues			
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Volunteer maintenance for trails/facilities	Volunteers	Washington State Parks has a process that allows and encourages volunteer involvement in the parks. In addition, the State Parks 2013 Centennial Plan specifically calls for the development of new partnerships.	Volunteer involvement will be encouraged in the planning, development, and maintenance of the park.
Set up yurts and water for volunteer campers/trail builders.			
Develop a local stewardship group to monitor health of park.			
Will the assigned park personnel have residences on site?	Park Ranger housing	The park will be open year-round, and at least one Park Ranger will live on site.	
Will this park be seasonal, or open year-round, and will security live there on this same scale?			

Recreational Resource & Facilities Issues			
Public Comment	Issue	Natural/Cultural Resource Protection Emphasis	Recreational Use and Development Emphasis
<p>Include a large number of equestrian trails with large parking areas for horse trailers to turn around, park and load and unload horses safely.</p> <p>Don't want ATV trails, motorcycles, or jeep clubs.</p> <p>ORV's pay license fee. No fee on horse. Need to allow legitimate family interest in ORV's in state park.</p> <p>Many level of trail, kid size, long distance, hook-up.</p> <p>Miles and miles of trails – user some restricted to foot/ADA</p> <p>Hiking trails with varied terrain, mountain views, river, fields, forest.</p> <p>Equestrian carriage trails</p> <p>Mountain bike access and more mountain bike trails.</p> <p>Shared trails for Mtn bikers, hikers, equestrians, trail runners, dog walkers, etc.</p> <p>Motorized vehicles, bicycles and horses should be prohibited. Tread on land gently by foot only. Do not want a park with noisy motors, stinky horses, and muddy trails destroyed by bikes.</p> <p>Loop trails like those in Pt. Defiance Park in Tacoma are great for runs, walks, etc. Shorter distances for half day type trips, ½ - 8 miles. The size of the property doesn't quite qualify as backcountry.</p>	Recreational facilities development-- Trails	<p>Prepare a comprehensive trail use and development plan. In general, trails should be kept away from sensitive areas. Trails may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible, interpretive pedestrian trail along Ohop Creek ▪ Accessible pedestrian trails near campground, and in accelerated old growth forest management area. ▪ Pedestrian trails along Nisqually and Mashel Rivers ▪ Multi-use (equestrian, bicycle, and pedestrian) trails in uplands 	<p>Prepare a comprehensive trail use and development plan. The goal should be to maximize recreational trail opportunities in the park. Trails may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible, interpretive pedestrian trail along Ohop Creek ▪ Accessible pedestrian trails near campground, and in accelerated old growth forest management area. ▪ Pedestrian trails along Nisqually and Mashel Rivers ▪ Multi-use (equestrian, bicycle, and pedestrian) trails in uplands. ▪ Separate equestrian, bicycle, and pedestrian-only trails both in uplands and near streams. ▪ Both easier and more challenging trails should be available.

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<p>Stress access points – boat, fish, and so on</p> <p>Are they going to provide access off the Mt. Hwy down to the river at the Mashel River Bridge?</p> <p>Boat launch only large enough for smaller crafts, i.e. canoe, white water rafts, smaller boats.</p> <p>Handicap access to boat launch.</p> <p>Boat launch access, esp. i.e. kayak put-in area with small parking.</p> <p>River access: drop-off access only; no parking on river.</p> <p>Carts to boat launch</p> <p>Horse trails, fishing access to river</p> <p>River access: drop-off access only, no parking on river.</p>	Recreational facilities development—Nisqually River access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop walk-in access to Nisqually from parking above washed-out road. Allow for small ADA parking area near the river. Hand-carry boat launch should be small and use only permeable materials. Work with downstream land managers to determine appropriate egress sites, and educate river users about these sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a parking lot for boaters and fishermen near the river. Investigate feasibility of rebuilding washed-out road to 2-lanes or installing traffic signal on 1-lane road. Create boat launch that allows for small craft and commercial river rafts. Work with downstream land managers to determine appropriate egress sites, and educate river users about these sites. Create ADA fishing facility
<p>Put RV camping in remote area – away from other users.</p> <p>Include camping sites for horses and horse trailers, providing full hookups, strong corrals, handy water, and a location to dispose of manure.</p> <p>Metal highline posts, 8' x 10' tall for tying horses overnight.</p> <p>Some “A” frame campsites for more \$\$ fees.</p> <p>Campsites with water and electric as well as primitive site, vault/biodegradable type toilets.</p> <p>Walk-in campsites for llama/goat packing.</p> <p>Group camping area for groups to hold events, i.e. mountain bike, running, equestrian events.</p> <p>Variety of accommodations; campsites, tent sites, RV sites, trailers, group picnic areas, group camping areas, full service restrooms with showers.</p> <p>Minimal campgrounds, no RV camping.</p>	Recreational facilities development--Camping	<p>Campground focus should be on integrating camping into the environment, minimizing camping's impact on natural resources. Facilities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~150 campsites in upland area east of Medical Springs Road. Sites should be in 50-site loops, with large forested corridors left between loops. Sites should be a mix of tent and utility sites. Most sites should be spacious enough for RVs, and a section should have a manure disposal area and hitching posts. Walk-in backcountry campsites in area south of main campground. 	<p>Campground focus should be on maximizing recreational camping opportunities while maintaining the natural environment campers came to the park to enjoy. Facilities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ 300 campsites in upland area east of Medical Springs Road. Sites should be in 50-site loops, with forested corridors left between loops. 2/3 of the sites in the main campground should be full utility sites, suitable for large RVs. Walk-in backcountry campsites for individuals and groups in area south of main campground Group camp area for scouts, families, or community groups. Should also include manure disposal facilities and hitching posts for use as a horse camp.
<p>I would like to see rental “yurts” available for overnight use. Yes!</p> <p>Include a few yurts and cabins like Cape Disappointment State Park.</p> <p>More cabins and yurts for people with disabilities.</p>	Recreational facilities development—Cabins or Yurts	Develop 5-10 yurts for new campers, campers with disabilities, or those who prefer to camp without “roughing it.”	Develop 5-10 yurts and 10-15 deluxe cabins (with bathrooms) for new campers, campers with disabilities, or those who prefer to camp without “roughing it.”

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<p>Work with master naturalist program to design native education.</p> <p>Group camp/education facility for school kids – outdoor education week like they do at Fort Casey State Park.</p> <p>Include Educational Center that includes a meeting room or reception area.</p> <p>Create joint park/Eatonville region visitor center.</p> <p>Make interpretive opportunities; tie to the whole watershed.</p> <p>Upon leaving the park, know more about the Northwest</p> <p>Plan for naturalist led walking tours/hikes</p> <p>Self-guided walking tour with tree and plant identification, geology information.</p> <p>Interpret the river, the river, the river</p> <p>Use “leave no trace” education</p> <p>Education and interpretation and non-structural intervention with nature (for kids to get “high” on challenging themselves..., i.e. fish, climb, get lost, canoe, ride horses, hike, i.e. have a chance to experience accomplishment.</p>	Recreational facilities development— Interpretation & education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with agency staff, volunteers, and interested groups to develop a park interpretive master plan. Design and construct a modest interpretive network for the park, including interpretive kiosks, signs, and non-facilities oriented programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with agency staff, volunteers, and interested groups to develop a park interpretive master plan. Design and construct an extensive, high-quality interpretive/education center in the park. Using the above interpretive center as a hub, design and construct an extensive interpretive network throughout the park. Actively solicit partnerships with the regional school districts to provide environmental education opportunities.
<p>No ball fields.</p> <p>Kids’ play areas, sports courts, boat launch, canoes</p> <p>Favor a wide variety of uses for the park, not just for equestrian use. Hiking, biking, play fields, protected river beaches are not abundant in this area.</p>	Recreational facilities development— Sports & Active Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop playgrounds in campground. Do not develop play fields or sports fields or courts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop playgrounds in campground, and near picnic area near Nisqually River. Consider sports courts in campground or near picnic facilities. Allow for open play areas near picnic facilities
<p>A nice picnic/washroom facility would be a nice destination/rest stop for area road bike riders.</p>	Recreational facilities development— Picnicking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct picnic shelters for small and large groups in upland prairie Construct remote picnic shelters for small groups near Nisqually River Create unsheltered picnic sites near Nisqually River, Ohop Creek, and in upland prairie. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct picnic shelters for small and large groups in upland prairie and near Nisqually River and Ohop Creek. Create unsheltered picnic sites near Nisqually River, Ohop Creek, and in upland prairie.
<p>Avian viewing “blinds”.</p> <p>Build viewing to see landscape.</p>	Recreational facilities development— nature viewing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Tahoma Audubon to determine placement of, design, and construct bird viewing blinds off the park’s trail system. Create resting spots for landscape viewing and contemplation off the park’s trail system 	
<p>Limit development along Nisqually River and Mashel River. Remove old bridge supports. Harden visitor use area.</p> <p>Restore bridge.</p> <p>Re-build bridges for non-motorized use only.</p> <p>Remove old bridge supports.</p>	Access to south side of Nisqually River	<p>Remove bridge supports, and allow access to south side of the Nisqually by river only.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuild bridge to allow for non-motorized access to the south side of the Nisqually River. Develop management agreement with UW Pack Forest to allow access to the southwest part of their property for accessing the bridge.

Recreational Resource & Facilities Issues			
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Horse trailer parking for long 18' trailer and pickups. Possible pull-throughs.	Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide horse trailer parking near equestrian and multi-use trailheads.Parking lots should be centralized and kept away from wetlands and other sensitive areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide horse trailer parking near equestrian and multi-use trailheads.Parking lots should be near recreational facilities
Limit development along Nisqually River and Mashel River. Harden visitor use area.	Park building philosophy & aesthetics	Develop park design standards with emphasis on sustainability and fitting facilities into the landscape.	
Keep state park as undeveloped or natural as possible.			
Energy efficient – outhouses (See park on Cowlitz River), i.e. solar/composting toilets, showers, sewage disposal, solar heat and light, earth sheltered walls, sod roofs, a green park.			
Make park feel old, wood bridges, log structures, rustic architecture or parks buildings, no metal sheds, no chain link fences.			
Low impact development, LEED cert. buildings.			
Entrance where?	Park entrance	The park entrance should be on Medical Springs Road to minimize the need for new roads within the park. Trail users may also enter park from a trail linking the park to the Town of Eatonville.	Consider moving park entrance to the east of Medical Springs Road to avoid conflict with residential use of the county road.
Spread out user impact. More than one access to area.			
More ports or access, more trailheads, some parts of access on the perimeter of the park will spread out the congestion and other issues.			
Will the entire property be fenced?	Fencing	Survey park boundaries and fence only where park adjoins private residential property.	
Reinforce boundary of State Park to discourage illegal activities. Resources are at risk.			
Provide access to commercial river tours.	Commercial use of park lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commercial non-recreational activity limited to traditional concession services within a state park setting. (e.g. drink machines or refreshment services)Commercial recreational activity will be considered if it augments activities provided by the agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commercial non-recreational activity is limited to services that support primary recreational uses.Commercial recreational activity will be considered if it augments activities provided by the agency.
Ways to make \$: float trips, special events, and historical day.			
Provide opportunities for commercial recreation equipment			
No horses/dogs.	Dogs	Allow leashed pets on developed trails.	Consider fenced off-leash dog area.
Water access off-leash dog area. How to contain? i.e. Marymoor Park and Ft. Steilacoom Park.			

Recreational Resource & Facilities Issues			
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Mountain bike, trail running, events for a fee. Races, poker runs, festivals.	Special events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational and interpretive special events are encouraged if they will not adversely affect natural/cultural resources. ▪ Recreational special events will be considered if they will not adversely affect natural/cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational and interpretive special events are encouraged if they will not adversely affect natural/cultural resources. ▪ Recreational special events are encouraged if they will not adversely affect natural/cultural resources
Create events at the park to draw visitors to park and town.			
Develop recreation areas of the park that can be used as staging areas for events, such as a trail running race or cyclocross bicycle, or mountain bike races (lg. open area with power and restrooms).			